

CUT

BARK INTO STOPPERS.

The Knives That Shape, Have and Taper the Slabs From the Tree—The Way Waste Product Is Utilized.

Cork, as most persons know, is the outer bark of an evergreen oak tree which grows in Spain, Portugal, Algeria, Morocco and to some extent in Italy. Its peculiar properties, especially its lightness and its compressibility, make it valuable for scores of purposes, but its original use, in the manufacture of corks, or stoppers for bottles, still consumes the greater part of all that is brought to market.

The cork oak varies in diameter from six inches to three feet. By a generous provision of nature the tree may be periodically stripped of its outer bark without losing its life.

Twenty years is the usual age at which the first cutting is made. After that the cork may be harvested about every ten years. The first cut, which is called virgin bark, is of little value, as it is coarse in texture and deeply seamed. The tree may be expected to live and yield cork until it is 150 years old.

In Spain and some other European countries corks are still made by hand, each one being pared from a square block by a common knife. In this country, where are made the finest corks in the world, the work is done by machinery, all of which is of American invention and manufacture. Every boy who has ever whittled a cork for a fishing-bob or a popgun pellet knows how difficult the material is to cut smoothly. To do it well his knife must be as sharp as a razor and must be used with a drawing motion, not a mere pressure, and if the cork be wet so much the better. The same difficulties confront the manufacturer by machinery and are met in the same way.

The bark, after having been wet and then allowed to remain for a time in damp cellars to soften, goes first to the stripping machines, which reduce it to slabs of a size proportionate to the corks to be made. These machines are merely small iron tables, through which appear very thin steel disks, like circular saws, except that they have no teeth. They are really keen edged steel knives, as thin as paper and running at a high rate of speed, but so smoothly that they seem to the spectator to be standing still.

The little slabs or strips of cork go next to the "blockers." The cutters here are cylindrical steel punches, or tubes, with razor edges. They are arranged in rows, or "gangs," and instead of being simply pressed through the cork are also revolving at high speed and so cut their way through. Having perforated the slab, the cutters back away automatically, while plungers like pistons working in the cylinders come forward and punch out the cores, which for some purposes are already finished corks.

They are, of course, perfectly cylindrical—that is, without taper—and in that form they are preferred by bottlers of effervescent liquids, because their shape enables them the better to resist the pressure of the restrained gases.

But for the use of druggists, who are the great users of corks and need the very finest, a tapering stopper is preferred, and this necessitates another operation. The tapering machines are run mostly by young women. Each machine consists of a little lathe, which centers the cylindrical cork automatically and then brings it into contact with the edge of the cutting knife, which, like the cutter of the slicing machine, is a very thin steel disk. As the cork touches this knife a thin shaving rises and curls away, like as a puff of smoke.

One who knows nothing of the machinery could see no reason for it, but during the second that the cork has been in contact with the apparently motionless disk some dozen yards of flying, razor edged steel have been at work, and the cork is now a perfect truncated cone, with a fine satin-like surface and an even and regular taper. By hand a very rapid and skilful cutter can turn out twelve or fourteen gross in a day. With these machines one girl will produce 420 gross.

There are few businesses in which the quantity of waste material is so large as in the manufacture of corks. In the best managed factories it ranges from 60 to 70 per cent, but American ingenuity and industrial development have succeeded in transforming it into a source of profit. By grinding the waste to various degrees of fineness and pressing it with glue or shellac into various shapes it is made useful for the inner soles of shoes, for bathroom mats, for insulation in refrigerating plants and the deadening of sound in apartment houses, the making of bicycle handles and the grips of tennis rackets, fly rods and golf clubs, and there are dozens of other uses for the waste which are quite as interesting.

Some years ago one manufacturer of corks was paying a teamster a dollar a load to cart away his waste and dump it on a refuse heap. Today he

receives \$60 a ton for the very cheapest quality of this waste.—Edward Williston Frenz in Youth's Companion.

A PRIMITIVE SPOT.

Virginia's Peculiar and Isolated Island of Tangier.

In Chesapeake bay, 125 miles south of Baltimore, with which city communication by boat three times a week may be depended upon during the summer season, is the strange island of Tangier, so completely isolated from the usual lines of travel that it hardly seems possible that it can be a part of the state of Virginia. * * * Imagine, if you can, an island about five miles long and three-fourths of a mile in width, with a population of nearly 1,500, where each house is connected with Chesapeake bay by a tiny canal; an island where the population has built homes along one narrow street but nine feet in width, without sidewalks, roadbed or gutter; an island where the women go about with bare feet and calico gowns during the week and where the men leave for their work at an early hour on Monday morning and remain away until Saturday afternoon; an island where intoxicating liquors are not sold, where billiard rooms and pool rooms are unknown; an island where one physician and the minister constitute the professional class; an island where profanity is punished by fine; an island without a jail or lockup and where religion is the rule and to be outside of the church is to be outside of the pale of the best society; an island where public cemeteries are unknown and where the dead of each home are buried in the front yard. If you can imagine all this, you may have some faint idea of the peculiar surroundings of the inhabitants of Tangier.—Four Track News.

ARROW CANYON.

Odd Way in Which Its Walls Were Decorated by Indians.

Thousands of arrows shot by bands of Indians for possibly centuries protrude from a mass several hundred feet long in the rocky walls of Arrow canyon, about twenty miles from the crossing of the Salt Lake railroad over the Moapa river, says the Los Angeles Times.

At a point where the perpendicular wall of the canyon juts out about 200 feet above the canyon bed a thin, snakelike fissure runs in the rock. Successive generations of Indians have gone to the place at regular intervals and shot their gayly feathered arrows upward, forming a fringed scarf unique in its oddity. The arrows are so thick that little room is left for more, and owing to the position of the fissure at a height of 200 feet and under the shelving wall the relics, protected from the weather, have stuck where they were driven in uncounted years ago.

Already relic hunters are visiting the place and despoiling it of its treasures by shooting the arrows out with revolvers and rifles. In the sands of the bed of the canyon many arrowheads of various sizes and shapes are found buried. It is believed that the Indians visited this spot in connection with some rite. Crude, strange figures have been cut by them in the face of the rock walls.

Worshippers of Wak.

The Borans are a strange people inhabiting the frontier between British East Africa and Abyssinia. The tribe are polygamists when they can afford it, and by religion they worship the spirit Wak, which requires constant propitiation. This is done by sacrificing their children and cattle. A Boran of any standing when he marries becomes a "raba," and for a certain period after marriage, varying from four to eight years, he is obliged to "throw away" any children that are born to him to appease Wak. After this period he becomes a "gudda" and keeps his children.—London Express.

Careful of Himself.

"When I was your age," said the glided youth's father, "I was at work before 7 o'clock every morning."

"Yes," answered the young man; "if I had all the business cares you used to have maybe I'd get insomnia too."

—Washington Star.

Explained.

Him—It must be awfully annoying for a woman to have hair that won't stay in place, like that girl in the third row in front of us. Her—There's nothing the matter with her hair. She has a new engagement ring.—Cleveland Leader.

After the Refusal.

Forgood—Do you think you have been fair to me, Miss Hawkins? Miss Hawkins—You have said so all along. You called me the fairest of my sex only five minutes ago.

When the soup has a greasy look pour it, when hot, through a cloth saturated with cold water, and the fat will remain in the cloth.

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Gainesville & Gulf Railway Company

Time Table in effect April 9, 1905.

No. 6, Daily Exec't Sunday	No. 4, Daily	No. 2, Daily	STATIONS.	No. 1, Daily	No. 3, Daily	No. 5, Daily Exec't Sun
Lv A M	Lv P M	Lv A M		Ar P M	Ar P M	Ar P M
7 45	2 15		Fairfield.....	1 20		6 10
7 55	2 25		Irvine.....	1 07		6 00
8 00	2 45		Dungarvan.....	1 00		5 55
8 05	2 55		Southside.....	12 55		5 50
8 10	3 00		Hickman.....	12 50		5 45
8 15	3 10		Lake Simonton.....	12 45		5 40
8 30	3 30		Micanopy.....	12 30		5 30
8 38	3 40		Tacoma.....	12 20		5 20
8 45	3 45		Kirkwood.....	12 15		5 15
8 50	3 55		Clyatt.....	12 10		5 10
9 08	4 15		Wacahoota.....	12 00		4 55
9 15	4 40		Rocky Point.....	11 45		4 40
9 45 Ar	5 00		Gainesville.....	9 20	10 10 Ar	3 00
11 00 Lv	6 15 Lv	6 20	Bellamy.....	8 55	9 40	2 30
11 35	6 40	6 53	Cyril.....	8 40	9 30	1 50
12 00	6 55	7 05	Graham.....	8 22	9 22	1 30
12 20	7 08	7 12	Sampson City.....	8 20	9 10	1 10
12 40	7 15 Ar	7 28	Palatka, G. S. & F.....	8 50 p	6 00 a	
	9 50	10 50	Lake City, G. S. & F.....	7 04 p	7 42	
	8 48	8 45	Tallahassee, S. A. L.....	1 48 p		
	11 05	11 00 a	Valdosta, G. S. & F.....	4 20 p	5 20	
	8 55 a	4 20 p	Macon, G. S. & F.....	11 30 a	12 40 a	
	7 30 a	7 55 p	Atlanta, C. of Ga.....	7 50 a	9 00	
Ar P M	Ar A M	Ar P M		Lv A M	Lv P M	

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12 15 p m Daily	Ocala, Leesburg and Tampa, and Intermediate Points	8 40 p m Daily
2 00 p m Daily	Palatka, Jacksonville, North, East and West	1 35 p m Daily
12 00 p m Daily	High Springs, Waycross, Savannah, Brunswick, Albany, Atlanta, all Points North, East West	3 15 p m Daily
8 15 p m Daily	Rochelle, Micanopy and Citra	9 55 a m Daily
8 50 a m Daily ex. Monday	High Springs	7 20 p m Daily ex. Sunday

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Effective April 10, 1905.

2 Vestibule Trains East No. 34 No. 20	North and West.	No. 18
Lv Jacksonville, Fla. So. Ry. 9 20a 7 55p	Lv Jacksonville, Fla. So. Ry. 7 45p	
Lv Jessup, Ga. So. Ry. 11 54a 10 40p	Lv Jessup, Ga. So. Ry. 10 30p	
Lv Savannah, So. Ry. 1 30p 12 15a	Ar Macon, Ga. So. Ry. 8 00a	
Ar Columbia, So. Ry. 6 55p 6 00a	Ar Atlanta, Ga. So. Ry. 5 20a	
Ar Charlotte, So. Ry. 10 05p 9 55a	Ar Rome, Ga. So. Ry. 7 30a	
Ar Greensboro, So. Ry. 12 55a 12 51p	Ar Dalton, Ga. So. Ry. 6 25a	
Ar Danville, So. Ry. 2 05a 2 10p	Ar Chattanooga, Tenn. So. Ry. 9 45a	
Ar Richmond, So. Ry. 6 55a 6 42p	Ar Lexington, Ky. Q. & C. 8 20p	
Ar Lynchburg, So. Ry. 4 17a 4 20p	Ar Cincinnati, O. Q. & C. 7 40p	
Ar Charlottesville, So. Ry. 6 02a 6 10p	Lv Cincinnati, O. Big Four 8 40p	
Ar Washington, So. Ry. 9 45a 9 50p	Ar Chicago, Ill. Big Four 7 10a	
Ar Baltimore, P. R. R. 11 50a 11 25p	Lv Cincinnati, O. Pa Lines 8 55p	
Ar W. Ph'del'ia P. R. R. 1 45p 2 25a	Ar Chicago, Ill. Pa Lines 7 10a	
Ar New York P. R. R. 4 13p 6 30a	Lv Cincinnati, O. C. H. & D. 8 45p	
	Ar Chicago, Ill. Monon 7 25a	
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	Ar Detroit, Mich. P. M. 7 25a	
	Lv Cincinnati, O. Pa Lines 8 30p	
	Ar Pittsburgh, Pa. Pa Lines 5 55a	
	Lv Cincinnati, O. Big Four 9 30p	
	Ar Cleveland, O. Big Four 4 45a	
	Lv Lexington, Ky. So. Ry. 8 30p	
	Ar Louisville, Ky. So. Ry. 8 10p	
	Ar St. Louis, Mo. So. Ry. 7 25a	
	Ar Anniston, Ala. So. Ry. 9 40a	
	Ar Birmingham, Ala. So. Ry. 11 45a	
	Ar Memphis, Tenn. Frisco 6 05p	
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